

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

WILLIAM JAMES ROY MALICOAT,

Petitioner,

v.

MIKE OBENLAND,

Respondent.

No. C14-5578 RJB-KLS

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION

Noted for: August 15, 2014

Petitioner William James Roy Malicoat has filed a petition for writ of habeas corpus pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 2254 and an application to proceed in forma pauperis. Dkt. 1. Because Petitioner appears to have sufficient funds with which to pay the \$5.00 court filing fee, the undersigned recommends the Court deny his application.

DISCUSSION

As a general rule, all parties instituting any civil action, suit or proceeding in a United States District Court must pay a filing fee. 28 U.S.C. § 1914(a). The Court may authorize the commencement of an action “without prepayment of fees and costs of security therefor, by a person who submits an affidavit that ... the person is unable to pay such fees or give security therefor.” 28 U.S.C. § 1915(a)(1). Therefore, an action may proceed despite a failure to prepay the filing fee only if leave to proceed in forma pauperis is granted by the Court. *See Rodriguez v. Cook*, 169 F.3d 1178, 1177 (9th Cir.1999).

1 The Ninth Circuit has held “permission to proceed in forma pauperis is itself a matter of
2 privilege and not a right; denial of an in forma pauperis status does not violate the applicant’s
3 right to due process.” *Franklin v. Murphy*, 745 F.2d 1221, 1231 (9th Cir.1984) (citing *Weller v.*
4 *Dickson*, 314 F.2d 598, 600 (9th Cir.1963)). In addition, the Court has broad discretion to grant
5 or deny a motion to proceed in forma pauperis. *O’Loughlin v. Doe*, 920 F.2d 614, 616 (9th
6 Cir.1990); *Weller*, 314 F.2d at 600-601.

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8 By filing a request to proceed in forma pauperis, Petitioner is asking the government to
9 incur the filing fee because he allegedly is unable to afford the costs necessary to proceed with
10 his petition for habeas corpus. Petitioner’s application reflects that as of July 3, 2014, he had
11 average monthly receipts of \$80.77 and an average spendable balance of \$45.52. Dkt. 1, p. 3.
12 Petitioner also states that he receives \$50.00 per month from his employment at the Clallam Bay
13 Corrections Center. The undersigned recognizes that the funds to which Petitioner has access
14 may not be great. However, given the fact that a prisoner’s basic needs are provided for while he
15 is incarcerated and the minimal filing fee required to proceed with this action is \$5.00, it is not
16 unreasonable to expect Petitioner to pay that fee from those funds.

18 CONCLUSION

19 Because Petitioner appears to have sufficient funds to pay the filing fee, the undersigned
20 recommends that the Court deny his application to proceed in forma pauperis (Dkt. 1).

21 Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 636(b)(1) and Rule 72(b) of the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure
22 (“Fed. R. Civ. P.”), Petitioner shall have fourteen (14) days from service of this Report and
23 Recommendation to file written objections thereto. See also Fed. R. Civ. P. 6. Failure to file
24 objections will result in a waiver of those objections for purposes of appeal. *Thomas v. Arn*, 474
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1 U.S. 140 (1985). Accommodating the time limit imposed by Rule 72(b), the clerk is directed set
2 this matter for consideration on **August 15, 2014**, as noted in the caption.

3 **DATED** this 21st day of July, 2014.

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6 Karen L. Strombom
7 United States Magistrate Judge
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